



# Transforming Emotions to Effective Advocacy: *Understanding the Issues Surrounding Special Education Rights in the District of Columbia*

The Office of the Student Advocate - in partnership with Tierra Jolly, Ward 8 representative for the DC State Board of Education - invites you to join us for a "Know Your Rights" panel discussion on special education.

A panel of experts and parents will discuss special education issues in the District of Columbia with a focus on empowering parents to become effective advocates for their children's educational rights.

This panel discussion will be moderated by Faith Gibson Hubbard, Chief Student Advocate for the Office of the Student Advocate.

To RSVP, email [student.advocate@dc.gov](mailto:student.advocate@dc.gov) (RSVPs are not required, but appreciated).

Got questions? Visit us on the web at [www.sboe.dc.gov/studentadvocate](http://www.sboe.dc.gov/studentadvocate), call 202-741-4692, or tweet us @DC\_Advocate!

Featured panelists include:

- ★ Tracy L. Goodman, Esq., Director, Healthy Together, Children's Law Center
- ★ Rochanda Hiligh-Thomas, Esq., Director of Legal Services & Advocacy, Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc.
- ★ Doreen D. Hodges, Executive Director, Family Voices of the District of Columbia Inc.
- ★ Joyanna Smith, Esq., Ombudsman for Public Education, Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education
- ★ Michelle Hawkins, Parent



Monday, November 9, 2015  
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

William O. Lockridge  
(Bellevue) Neighborhood Library

115 Atlantic Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20032



#KnowYourRightsDC



## About the Office of the Student Advocate

The Office of the Student Advocate (OSA) partners with students, parents, families, and community members for step-by-step guidance and support to **Be Informed**, to **Be Connected**, and to **Be Empowered** within the public schools system in the District of Columbia. Established in 2013 through the Parent and Student Empowerment Act, OSA is an independent office housed within the District of Columbia State Board of Education.